every effort is being made to ensure that mustardseed with moisture content meeting FAQ level is procured.

Agricultural Policy

†1860. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new agricultural policy keeping in view the interests of the farmers of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent it will be helpful for the Indian farmers; and

(d) the effective steps to be taken by Government to implement the said policy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. The National Agricultural Policy was formulated in July, 2000.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Promotion of Organic Farming

1861. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for creation of regional centre at Nagpur for the promotion of organic farming;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (d) Government has sanctioned a new Central Sector Scheme "National Project on Organic Farming" from October, 2004 for production, promotion and market development of Organic Farming in the country by subsuming the existing infrastructure of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

National Bio-fertilizer Development Centre (NBDC) and its six Regional Centres (RBDCs) including the Regional Centre at Nagpur.

In order to facilitate, encourage and promote development of Organic Farming in the country, NBDC and RBDCs have been renamed as National -Centres of Organic Farming (NCOF) and Regional Centres of Organic Farming (RCOFs).

(c) Does not arise.

Godowns in rural areas

1862. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to set up large number of storage godowns in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the existing storage capacity and the proposed number of storage godowns to be set up in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has planned to construct 140 lakh tonnes of storage capacity in rural areas in the country during Tenth Plan period. For the purpose, capital investment subsidy is being provided on the cost of the storage project under the central sector scheme of Construction of Rural Godowns. Under this scheme, project for construction of rural godowns can be taken up by individual farmers, group of farmers/growers cooperatives, companies, etc. the entrepreneurs are free to construct a godown at any place and of any size as per their commercial judgement except for the restrictions that it would be outside the limits of Municipal Corporation area and be of minimum capacity of 50 MT (25 MT for hilly areas). Construction of rural godown is to be decided by the entrepreneurs on need basis and its economy viability as a bankable project. Credit linked back ended subsidy @ 15% to 33.33% of the capital cost of the project for various categories is provided through NABARD and NCDC. The benefit of the scheme is available to the entrepreneurs throughout the country.